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ABRAHAM LINCOLN, A FRIEND OF THE SOUTH

(By Rev. E. R. Welch)

The death of Lincoln was the south's greatest calamity. Jefferson Davis said that "next after the surrender of Appomattox, the murder of Abraham Lincoln made the darkest day in the calendar for the south and for the people of the south." He had the will and power to save it from itself. He was the one who could have come to the head of affairs in 1861, bringing with him none of the embittered resentments growing out of the bitter anti-slavery battle. Through all the passions of debate and even through the war itself, not one angry, vindictive word fell from his tongue or pen. He sprang from Virginia ancestors and was born and reared in Kentucky. He knew the

south, its traditions, its institutions, its peculiarities. He said time and again: "If slavery be not wrong, nothing is wrong, but I have no prejudice against the south. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them they would not introduce it. If it did now exist amongst us, we would not instantly give it up."

He tried every honorable resort to avoid the war. As early as 1848, while a member of the thirtieth congress, he introduced a bill to "pay the owners full cash value for emancipated slaves." In the next session of congress he opposed a bill to prohibit slavery in the District of Columbia because of its form. But he immediately introduced another with the same provisions, but allowing household servants of government officials to be imported from slave states, and compensating the owners for any they might emancipate. Fugitives escaping into the district were to be returned.

In the celebrated Hampton Roads conference, he had in his pocket a copy of a bill he had prepared to submit to both houses of congress jointly, appropriating four hundred million dollars for emancipation of the slaves by purchase. Taking Alexander H. Stevens, vice-president of the Confederacy, his friend of long standing, aside he said, holding up a blank sheet of paper, "Stevens, let me write the one word 'Union' at the top of this sheet and you may write under it whatever you please." But Stevens and his associates were instructed to consider nothing but the recognition of the Confederacy, and so all negotiations failed. The above plan, however, Lincoln submitted to his cabinet, and it was opposed by all but Chase, and so it was not urged further. It is a matter of record that in his message to congress in 1862, he proposed payment for the slaves and earnestly urged it, but it failed, of course.

Had Lincoln lived the south had not been cursed by the inexpressible horrors of reconstruction. He would have been our friend at court just when we needed a friend the most.

What a dark and dreadful hour was it, when he was killed by an assassin's bullet!

What a pall it cast over the south, as well as the north! Here and there an extremist rejoiced, but the same south wept.

In this connection I will say a word about the death of Lincoln. Perhaps I may be able to throw some new light upon the motive that actuated Booth in the commission of the crime. Various motives have been advanced. It was said at the time that it was a plot amongst prominent Confederates, that it was a Catholic plot, or that Booth was insane, but I think the following account will add another and more reasonable motive:

John Young Beal was a dashing, brilliant, cultured young man of the southern type. He lived at Winchester, Va. He graduated at the University of Virginia at the beginning of the war between the states. Just before the war began, during the winter, he made frequent visits to Washington City, and formed an attachment for John Wilkes Booth, who was then playing in "Richard the Third." It was said that some of his leaps in that play were startling and would almost take the breath of his audiences. He was one of the most handsome of men, possessing a graceful figure and cultured manner that captivated every one. No lady, it is said, could ever behold him and not love him. He became acquainted with the beautiful daughter of Senator John P. Hale of New Hampshire, and they became lovers. She was so infatuated with him that she said that she would marry him under the gallows.

Beal, after entering the Confederate army, went up to Buffalo, on Lake Erie, and captured and destroyed some northern vessels. He was captured, placed in jail, tried by court martial, and convicted of piracy and condemned to be hung. John Wilkes Booth loved Beal as a brother, and determined to make an effort to save his life. He saw some prominent republican senators and military officers, amongst whom was Senator Hale, father of his sweetheart, who went with him, with others, to see Mr. Lincoln and secure Beal's pardon. Booth made an earnest plea on his knees, and being an actor, threw all his dramatic powers into the appeal, making a plea so pathetic and earnest that he won the sympathies of Lincoln and he promised to pardon Beal. Booth trusted him.

The next day the president informed the cabinet in session what he had done. Mr. Seward, the secretary of state, arose from his seat and paced the floor like a mad lion. He told Mr. Lincoln that if he did pardon Beal that he would resign his seat in the cabinet and denounce him on every stump as being in sympathy with the rebellion. He said that if the government could not hang such pirates and traitors as Beal, then they had as well turn it over to the rebels. Mr. Lincoln saw that at that critical time such a result would be disastrous and he reconsidered his determination, and so Beal was duly executed. Mr. Morse, in his American Statesmen series, says that Booth was actuated by revenge, but does not state the cause. Here it is. It was natural that Booth, dashing, high-strung as he was, should seek vengeance. So he organized a plot to kill Mr. Lincoln, which he did. The vengeance plot was to include the cabinet, but especially Seward and Stanton. Seward, after being stabbed, barely escaped with his life.

I have never seen this account in history, and consider it so plausible that I attach a large measure of credence to it. I am told by reliable parties that the account was published generally in the newspapers just after the war and largely believed.

Though a son of a Confederate soldier, and loyal to the south, I have been a student and admirer of Mr. Lincoln. For this an apology is unnecessary.

I close this article by quoting the celebrated oration of Henry Watter-son's address on Lincoln, delivered before the Lincoln Club, Chicago, April 12, 1905. I am glad that these sentiments were expressed by a southern man. I believe they are expressive of the vast majority of southern people today:

"Born as lowly as the Son of God, in a hovel, reared in penury, squalor, with no gleam of light or fair surroundings, without graces, actual or acquired; without name or fame or official training, it was reserved for this strange being, late in life, to be snatched from obscurity, raised to supreme command at a supreme moment, and entrusted with the destiny of a nation.

The great leaders of his party, the most experienced and accomplished public men of the day, were made to stand aside, were sent to the rear, while this fantastic figure was led by unseen hands to the front and given the reins of power. It is immaterial whether we were for him or against him; wholly immaterial. That, during four years, carrying with them such a weight of responsibility as the world never witnessed before, he

filled the vast space allotted him in the eyes and actions of mankind, is to say that he was inspired of God, for nowhere else could he have acquired the wisdom and the virtue.

"Where did Shakespeare get his genius? Where did Mozart get his music? Whose hand smote the lyre of the Scottish plowman, and stayed the life of the German priest? God, God, and God alone; and as surely as these were raised up by God, inspired by God, was Abraham Lincoln, and a thousand years hence no drama, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder, or be followed by mankind with deeper feeling than that which tells the story of his life and death."

Not a Bite of Breakfast Until You Drink Water

Says a glass of hot water and phosphate prevents illness and keeps us fit.

Just as coal, when it burns, leaves behind a certain amount of combustible material in the form of ashes, so the food and drink taken day after day leaves in the alimentary canal a certain amount of indigestible material, which if not completely eliminated from the system each day, becomes food for the millions of bacteria which infest the bowels. From this mass of left-over waste, toxins and ptomain-like poisons are formed and sucked into the blood.

Men and women who can't get feeling right must begin to take inside baths. Before eating breakfast each morning drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash out of the thirty feet of bowels the previous day's accumulation of poisons and toxins and to keep the entire alimentary canal clean, pure and fresh.

Those who are subject to sick headache, colds, biliousness, constipation, others who wake up with bad taste, foul breath, backache, rheumatic stiffness, or have a sour, gassy stomach after meals, are urged to get a quarter-pound of limestone phosphate from the drug store, and begin practicing internal sanitation. This will cost very little, but is sufficient to make anyone an enthusiast on the subject.

Remember inside bathing is more important than outside bathing, because the skin pores do not absorb impurities into the blood, causing poor health, while the bowel pores do. Just as soap and hot water cleanses, sweetens and freshens the skin, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels.

The Union Mission.

As we gave notice in our last report that we had moved into our new hall, known as the Weeks building on South Washington street, we are well pleased with the location. The congregations are increasing each service and God is wonderfully blessing the efforts put forth, and His spirit is accompanying the truth in conviction and to the salvation of precious souls. We praise God for the salvation of two precious souls on our last service night (Thursday). We praise God for the virtue of His saving grace which is always manifest when the conditions of His word are met, and we find that when the gospel truth is given free of charge without selfishness from a pure heart and motives. It is retained in the soil of honest hearts to the salvation of the soul. We are planning to give our Sunday school children a joyous Easter egg hunt and outing in the Caddo creek bottom, the Lord willing. The eggs and also a nice noonday lunch will be taken, and after the joyous Easter egg hunt is over, we will congregate the school among the fragrant green foliage and blooming flowers, which our God saw fit to give for our comfort on such occasions, and teach those little eager hearts the real meaning and power which remains for them through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. O, we thank God for the faith He has given us of his life, atonement and resurrection. His complete victory and triumphant glory

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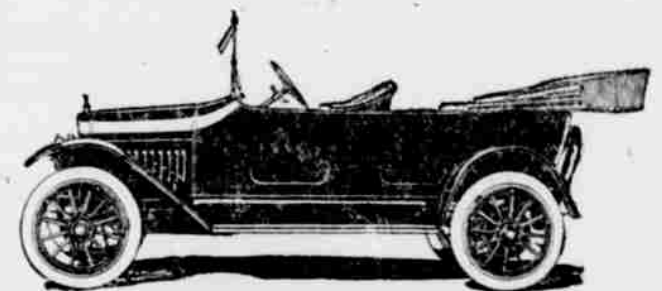
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